



Illustration by David H. Wagner;
From 'Guide to the Species of Botrychium in Oregon'

BOTRYCHIUM MINGANENSE **MINGAN ISLAND MOONWORT**

Mingan Island Moonwort is a perennial with a single aboveground frond of ca. 5-20 cm tall. It is divided into two segments that share a common stalk, and it is usually a deep, dull green and somewhat fleshy. The sterile segment is once pinnatifid with up to 10 usually well separated pairs of pinnae. The pinnae are variable; they are generally narrowly fan shaped with rounded, entire margined apices, but can be broader and may be lobed or have incised margins. The fertile segment is longer than the sterile segment, is branched, and bears grape-like sporangia. Fronds mature in August.

Highly variable but distinguished by the dull green color, somewhat fleshy texture, and the many well divided, relatively narrow, entire-margined pinnae are typical of Montana plants. *BOTRYCHIUM MINGANENSE* otherwise resembles *B. ASCENDENS*, *B. CRENULATUM*, and *B. LUNARIA*; small plants may also resemble *B. MONTANUM* and *B. SIMPLEX*. Positive identification of moonworts depends on the use of technical keys and on comparison with silhouette outlines of verified specimens, often complicated by morphological variation within and between populations, and the presence of several species growing together at the same site.